



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

VOL. 32 No. 4

343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

NOVEMBER 1988



Holly Festival

The Annual Holly Festival will be held on Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mark this date on your calendar to come shopping for our lovely Boxwood Williamsburg Christmas Decorations, poinsettia, and fresh cut holly.

This year's craft tables will have Santa Claus Mice to a first time appearance of the Embroiders Guild of America - Creative Needleworks Chapter. We will be calling our fabulous bakers for Home-baked Goods.

See you the first weekend in December preparing for the Holidays with the Society's many offerings to make your celebrations easy and enjoyable.

Mary Jane Freedley
Women's Committee



GENERAL MEETING

Prepare for your Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays by attending the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Haddonfield on November 17. Mrs. Thomas (Sandy) Jones, a local resident, will give a presentation on Holiday centerpieces. As an active member of the Haddonfield Garden Club and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Mrs. Jones has attended numerous floral workshops in the Delaware Valley for the past ten years. In the last several years, she has been guest lecturing and giving workshops to various clubs and organizations in New Jersey.

A short business meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in Greenfield Hall, during which time there will be the election of new officers. Jones will begin with a lecture and demonstration on the practical uses of flowers and greenery. A hands-on workshop will follow during which time you will be able to design your personal centerpiece for the Holiday Season.

Participation in the workshop is limited to the first 20 registrants. The fee will be approximately \$9.00. Attendance to the lecture and demonstration is free and

you are welcome to remain to watch the workshop. For participation please bring a sharp knife, newspaper and your garden greens in a brown shopping bag. All other supplies will be furnished from your workshop fee.

To register for the workshop please call Margie Kanupke, 795-5810, after 6 p.m. As Mrs. Jones has said, "I feel if you have an attractive home, dress well and appreciate nature's bounty you can certainly learn to work well with foliage and flowers. I have and you can too!"

AUCTION

We are pleased to announce a successful auction was held by the Society on October 1. This success was made possible, in part, by the generous donations given by many people. Also, the support of the dedicated volunteers on the Auction committee added to the success we reached.

The Auction was able to raise approximately \$4,000 for the Society. We deeply appreciate the help everyone gave us with the auction.

Nancy Burrough
Sally Fisher
Auction Co-Chairpersons



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Most Generous Gift

The Society has received from the estate of Helen Hall Streeter a munificent bequest of more than \$77,000. This generous gift has enabled the Society to create an Endowment Fund.

A long-time and very active member, Helen Streeter was interested in all the Society's programs, particularly the appearance of the formal parlors and the redecorating of Victorian Parlor. As a tribute to Mrs. Streeter a request will be made to the Executive Council to designate the Victorian room as the Helen Streeter Memorial Parlor and to invite members of her family and her friends to a dedication ceremony.

Volunteers

Since the Society was founded 74 years ago, it has relied exclusively on volunteers to manage its day-to-day operations, classify and catalog its collections and organize fund-raising events. Although the Society has been extraordinarily fortunate to have talented members volunteer their time and energy, this number is dwindling. They work quietly, effectively and their contribution of time, thought and interest are among the Society's most valuable assets. Without our volunteers, the Historical Society of Haddonfield might, itself, be a part of history. Words cannot express our appreciation, but we do thank you most sincerely.

Patricia Lennon



75th ANNIVERSARY BOOK PROJECT

One of the exciting events being planned for the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Society is the publication of a book by the Society. The authors, Doug Rauschenberger and Kathy Tassini, have been working on the project since the beginning of the summer and have made great progress toward meeting the scheduled publication date of October 1989.

Doug and Kathy wish to appeal to members through the Bulletin for any photos you may have of Haddonfield as it once was. They are particularly interested in places, buildings, lifestyles, transportation styles, recreational facilities, farms or activities which no longer exist.

If you have photos which you would be willing to have considered for publication in the book, Doug or Kathy will be happy to discuss their possible use and come take a look at them at your convenience.

Some of the things they are particularly interested in locating are: a good picture of the Kirby School building, a good picture of the Hillman School/Haddon Atheneum building, a picture of Mountwell before it burned, and a picture of whatever stood on the south west corner of Kings Highway East and Potter Street before the Kingsway Apartments were built.

If you have any questions or photos which might be appropriate please call Kathy Tassini (429-2462) or Doug Rauschenberger (429-1304) and help support this exciting project.

HISTORIC GARDENS OF HADDONFIELD

The following excerpts are from an article which was written for the Garden Club of Haddonfield on May 25, 1920, by Mary Cawley Rhoads.

Lord Bacon says, "God Almighty first planted a garden". Since "man was created in God's image" it is no more than natural that he has ever loved to plant and tend gardens around his abiding places.

When our forefathers came to this new land, one of their first concerns, after securing shelter, was to surround themselves with beautiful gardens. Naturally when ever their finances permitted, plants for them were brought from the homeland. It made the new home more homey to have it surrounded with familiar plants. While their conception of a garden was more formal than ours, they nevertheless were beautiful and satisfying, and the oldest gardens here in Haddonfield (and we are blessed with an unusual number), thoroughly convince us of this fact.

Elizabeth Haddon's garden still has its charm. Its sheltering wall; its straight well-laid paths — the ones leading to the porches paved with the bricks she brought

from her native land. The yew trees which probably have been growing over two hundred years, though somewhat broken by storms, are still in a growing state. The boxbushes which were saved to us by Mr. Wood's father, who covered them with wetted carpets when the original mansion burned in 1842, are hearty and beautiful. In the beds surrounded by the low box bush we can in fancy picture Elizabeth Haddon . . . rejoiced in the early Spring to see her daffodils and tulips, which are still there, show that the winter would soon be past.

Originally the garden wall probably enclosed the entire plot, crossing to the front from the end of the walk along the present side wall, just including the row of tree boxes and the front yew tree. The purpose of the wall no doubt was to keep out rabbits and other troublesome wild animals. There was a side entrance to the house where now the English Ivy grows.

The largest box bush measures about fifty-five feet in circumference; two others fifty and forty feet each. Five of these large boxbushes appear to have been planted in form, that is a tall one in the center with a circular setting of lower ones surrounding it. This makes them very symmetrical at the base.

For the wonderful preservation of this our oldest garden we must render thanks to the Wood family, in whose possession it has been since 1831, nearly one hundred years. Had they not shown historical pride, interest and care, we can easily imagine what a wreck it would have been long ere now; for when they purchased it at Sheriff's sale, already the trees had been somewhat cut and spoiled. Adding to this care the graciousness of the Woods toward all visitors, whether friend or stranger, our debt to them grows greater.

Of the Captain Cooper garden we have very meager knowledge, for it has been entirely obliterated. According to memory it reached back from the old Braddock drug store (now Lamont's hardware store) to near Town Hall. It had a picket fence along Haddon Avenue, over and through which glimpses could be had of a trellised arbor running nearly the entire length of the two or three tree box near the fence line. The whole place had a mysterious, densely-shadowed look. Captain Cooper's fad was the making of fantastic bird houses and windmills, and of these the yard must have been full. Whether the wrens, bluebirds and martins fancied these marvelous contraptions for their nesting places we will not be able to know. Mr. Samuel Wood has one of the bird houses built as a model of Christ Church.

The garden at Greenfield Hall, until recently the home of John Gill Willits, was probably planted by the wife of John Gill 3rd somewhere about 1796 . . . His wife Anne Smith, of the well-known Burlington County family . . . So to her we will credit the pleasure that succeeding generations have had in that garden filled with beautiful box bushes large and small, and walks edged with set stones. The winding paths flooded with the mystic moonlight and scented with the fragrance of the box bushes have made the garden a delight to strolling lovers. To some who have lived there it was a charmed spot. . . The box bushes have been well cared for, dug about, fertilized and trimmed with clock-like precision. A glass door has been placed in the rear of the long hall, so in winter as well as in summer the beauty of the garden is revealed. An eminent British Friend, Joseph John

Gurney, visiting John Gill 4th, said "Friend Gill, thy front door is in the town and thy rear door in the country".

The house were William H. Clement lives reaches back into the historic. . . The property was given by John Estaugh Hopkins to a man named Fortiner in 1786 as payment for the building of a dam for the old Hopkins Mill . . .

Back of the house were three rectangular beds each thirty by sixty-feet, box-bordered with paths between and long paths each side also box-bordered. (The rear one has recently been sold to some florist to help satisfy the modern craze for antique box bushes.)

Beside these flower beds there is one large tree box and one large bush-box near the front, and a fine mist bush on the side next to the railroad. On the west side of the house is a very fine old Hazel bush which occasionally bears nuts. The stump is two feet in diameter which indicates considerable age. Pear trees are a prominent feature in this garden. One in line with the Hazel bush used to bear seven varieties of pears, having been so grafted, but now only three. Another back of that is a very free bearer and is called Bergamot or Burgundy pear. The trunk of this tree is two feet in diameter, the limbs spreading over fifty feet . . .

. . . directly opposite Mr. Clement's, lies another garden . . . It was bought by Senator Alexander G. Cattell, who lived there until 1863. He employed a German gardener named Henry Jraudt, who laid out the garden about 1850 . . . After the Senator moved away a man by the name of Edwards occupied the property. He hired another German gardener, one Yackley by name. In 1865 Joseph Walton, bought the place, he retained Yackley . . . the Waltons had unbounded pride in the box garden, so much so that they were almost afraid to permit anyone to set foot therein. And 'tis truly wonderful in design. Beds and paths bordered with box bushes form a most intricate design of squares, circles, semicircles and triangles, so that the whole is almost a labyrinth. It radiates its German authorship at every turn.

In the front of the yard are two box bushes which are especially interesting because they appear to be tree boxes which have been kept trimmed as bushes. They are hearty and make rapid growth.

Let us be grateful to those now long departed souls, who planned and planted so well and beautifully, and let us do likewise to the best of our ability, for the term "old fashioned" ever advances.



1834 in Haddonfield

There were 100 houses made of brick and wood. They were surrounded by gardens and orchards. Farms sold at about \$100 an acre and the major crop was corn with a variety of vegetables and fruits picked fresh and sent to several markets in the vicinity.

The Historical Society of Haddonfield
343 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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ART EXHIBIT

As part of the Historical Society's 75th Anniversary celebration, we are co-sponsoring with the Markiem Arts Center, an art exhibit featuring turn-of-the-century local artists. This exhibit will be held in October 1989. We will feature works by such professionally trained artists as: Raphael Senseman, Hannah Cutler Groves, Thomas and Raymond Bancroft, Maurice Bower and Emlen Adelaide McConnell. If anyone has a painting by these artists and would be willing to loan it for the exhibit, please contact Myra Kain (429-0817) or Debbie Moore (428-7420).

75th Anniversary Committee



DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Historical Society is planning a docent training program to begin in February 1989. The program is open to any member of the Society who wishes to learn more about the history of Greenfield Hall or as a refresher course for those who are already docents.

As 1989 will be our Seventy-fifth Anniversary year, it would be appropriate to have trained volunteers to conduct tours for the anticipated groups who wish to come. The projected goal is to have a basic tour for each docent to give those people visiting the Society.

This is your opportunity to acquaint yourself with our Headquarters and the fine collection which has been assembled.

If you are interested in knowing more about the program, please return the coupon below to:
The Historical Society of Haddonfield, 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

You will be contacted in January 1989 with further information.

YES, I am interested in more information concerning the Society's Docent Training.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____